Message Text

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BRUSSELS FOR LUCY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: OECD AD HOC MEETING: MID-TERM REVIEW

AND APPRAISAL (R&A)

1. DEBATE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL CENTERED ON FOLLOWING ISSUES: (A) REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (IDS) IN LIGHT OF THE DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION AND RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS; (B) CONFRONTATION VS. CONCILIATORY NATURE OF GROUP B/G-77 DISCUSSIONS; (C) FORM OF OUTPUT OF TDB 6TH SPECIAL SESSION. STRONG INTEREST IN COORDINATION AMONG GROUP B MEMBER COUNTRIES BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. THERE WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT, ON THE ONE HAND THE IDS SHOULD NOT BE REPLACED BY THE DECLARATION AND PROGRAM (AS THE G-77 MIGHT WANT), WHILE ON THE OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAND SOME CHANGE IN THE IDS WOULD BE UNAVOIDABLE. IN

ANY EVENT, THERE WAS GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEED FOR SOME REVISION OF THE IDS IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOP-MENTS. THE UK, SUPPORTED BY FRG AND JAPAN, WAS VERY CON-CERNED THAT THE CHARACTER OF THE IDS AS A CONSENSUS DOC-UMENT BE PRESERVED, AND CALLED FOR EVERY EFFORT TO BE MADE AGAINST INCORPORATION OF OBJECTIONABLE PARTS OF DECLARATION AND PROGRAM INTO IDS. SAID POSITIVE ACHIEVE-MENTS SHOULD BE STRESSED, INCLUDING: EC/ACP AGREEMENT; PASSAGE OF US TRADE ACT, REVISED DAC TERMS RECOMMENDA-TION; RESULTS OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE: PROGRESS ON UN PROGRAM TO ASSIST MSA'S; AND IBRD AND IMF DEVELOPMENTS. US MADE SERIES OF PROPOSALS FOR CONTENT OF R&A REPORT. THESE AND OTHER US AND UK SUGGESTIONS WERE INCORPORATED IN THE "PRELIM-INARY DRAFT LIST OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES" AS PART OF OFFICIAL RECORD OF OECD MEETING (SEE SEPTEL).

3. SWEDEN (SUPPORTED BY NETHERLANDS) NOTED THAT WHILE WE SHOULD AVOID PITTING THE IDS AGAINST THE DECLARATION AND PROGRAM (AS OCCURRED LAST YEAR), CHANGES IN IDS ARE LEGITIMATE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ORIGIN. USDEL, SUPPORTED BY SWITZERLAND, CANADA AND FRANCE, AGREED THAT IDS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO REVISION. WILLING TO EXAMINE SUBSTANCE OF DECLARATION AND PROGRAM, WITH DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES BASED ON MERITS. CANADA VIEWED PROGRAM OF ACTION AS BASIC, UNDEVELOPED DOCUMENT AND THAT R&A IS GOOD FORUM FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION OF PROGRAM. FRANCE DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN SHORT-TERM EMERGENCY MEASURES (WHERE WE SHOULD BE GENEROUS) AND LONG-TERM ISSUES (WHERE WE SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING BUT AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSIDERA-TION.) SEVERAL DELS STRESSED THAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AVOID TDB DECISIONS WHICH COULD IMPEDE OR NEGATE PROGRESS IN AREAS SUCH AS COMMODITIES.

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4. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT A CONFRONTATION WITH G-77 SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND THAT THIS MIGHT BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY STRESSING POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN CONTEXT OF IDS; DEMONSTRATING A WILLINGNESS TO REVISE IDS TO BETTER REFLECT REALITIES; AND SUPPORTING OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGES IN IDS.

5. AS TO THE FORM OF OUTPUT DESIRED FROM THE TDB, IT WAS AGREED THAT RESOLUTIONS TEND TO SOLIDIFY POSITIONS, AND THAT A SERIES OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE PREFERABLE. SEVERAL DELS POINTED OUT THAT G-77 IS NOT YET IN AGREEMENT ON WHETHER IT WANTS CONSENSUS; AND THAT WHILE PROGNOSIS IS NOT OPTIMISTIC, ATTITUDE OF GROUP B COULD BE AN INFLUENCING OR EVEN DETERMINING FACTOR. PRAGMATIC RATHER THAN DOCTRINAIRE GROUP B APPROACH WOULD LEND SUPPORT TO MODERATES IN G-77. FINLAND INDICATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEVERAL LDC'S ARE PREPARING A SERIES OF STATEMENTS OR DECLARATIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN REPORT.

6. TURNING TO THE NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS HELD OVER FROM THE 14TH TDB, SWITZERLAND AND JAPAN SAID WE AGREED AT THAT TIME ONLY TO CONSIDER THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE RESOLUTIONS RELEVANT TO THE R&A. CANADA SAID THERE IS NO INDICATION OF LDC INTEREST IN REVIVING THESE RESOLUTIONS AND JAPAN CONCURRED. TURNER

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